THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Juvenile sex ratio

1890. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Drop in juvenile sex ratio causes worry", which appeared in the Hindu, dated the 1st February, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that notwithstanding the legal environment, there is mushrooming growth of scan centres performing female infanticides resulting in alarming rise in such incidences throughout the country; and

(d) if so, the corrective action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

The news-item captioned, 'Drop in juvenile sex ratio causes worry', appeared in the Hindu dated 1.2.2003 referred to the mushrooming of scan centres in the country which were being utilized for sex selection and subsequent abortion of female foetus causing decline in the juvenile sex ratio. The report refers to the Census 2001, which showed a decline in child sex ratio (number of girls per 1000 boys) from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001. The situation is reported to be worse in the States/UT of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi having child sex ratio of 793, 820 and 915 respectively.

In order to contain the practice of female foeticide, the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, was brought into operation from 1.1.1996. The act prohibits determination and disclosure of the sex of foetus. The Act has since been amended with effect from 14th February, 2003 in order to make it more stringent.

To strengthen the implementation of the Act, regional workshops and training programmes are being organized to sensitize the Appropriate Authorities at State, district and sub-district levels. A National Inspection and Monitoring Committee has also been constituted to monitor the implementation of the Act through field visits. Various activities are being undertaken regularly to create public awareness through Radio, Television, newspaper, hoardings etc. in various States and UTs.

As per the reports received from States/UTs, more than 20,000 centres conducting pre-natal diagnostic techniques including ultrasonography have been registered over the last one year. 350 complaints have been filed in the Courts/Police and 215 machines have been sealed and seized for violation of various provisions of the Act.

Utilisation of funds by Government Hospitals in Delhi

†1891. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various Government hospitals in Delhi do not utilize completely their annual allocation;

(b) if so, the name of each of Government hospitals to which amount is allocated alongwith details of annual average amount allocated to these hospitals; and

(c) the average amount that have been spent annually out of the allocated amount?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi *i.e.* Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Harding Medical College and Associated Hospitals are concerned, the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.